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North Polk Student Begins Term as State Board of Education Member

(DES MOINES, IOWA) – May 8, 2007 – High school student Kameron Dodge of Cambridge will attend his first meeting as a member of the State Board of Education on Thursday, May 10. Governor Chet Culver and Lt. Governor Patty Judge recently appointed Dodge to the one-year term as a nonvoting student representative.

In his application for the position, Dodge stated that he has a strong desire to represent Iowa students and make a difference in their lives. "The insight that I can provide from a student's prospective could be useful as Iowa continues to try to move forward educationally and close the achievement gaps that exist," Dodge said.

Dodge is a 10th-grade student at North Polk Junior-Senior High School in Alleman. He is active in his school, serving on the student council and several school and district committees. In addition, he is active in football, tennis, baseball, mock trial, marching band, jazz band and drama. He also serves as a band mentor and a role model to students at the elementary level. He is a strong academic student and enrolled in advanced placement (AP) classes as a freshman and sophomore. In April, Dodge was inducted into the National Honor Society.

State Board of Education President Gene Vincent said Dodge's appointment continues the board's recent tradition of including student representation. "Kameron is a very thoughtful and motivated young man. The board is honored to have such an outstanding individual represent Iowa's students," Vincent said. The nonvoting student member position was added to the State Board of Education by legislation passed in 2002.

Dodge replaces John Jessen, whose term ended in April and who will graduate from Des Moines' Roosevelt High School the end of May.

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The State Board of Education is the policymaking body for the Iowa Department of Education. The State Board establishes policy and adopts accreditation rules for the operation of Iowa schools, area education agencies and community colleges. It consists of 10 members: nine voting members who are appointed by the governor for six-year terms and subject to Senate confirmation; and one nonvoting student member who serves a one-year term, also appointed by the governor.

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